

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Table 1 on page 16 of the specification is amended to correct an obvious typographical error. Applicants submit that those of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the value of “106” ppm for the amount of Na cation for Example 4 is not correct. This is evident, for example, from the fact that the total amount of metal cation for Example 4 (see the second to the last row of Table 1) is “90” ppm. As is the case for Examples 1-3, the total amount of metal cations in the second to the last row of Table 1 should be the sum of the individual amounts of the metal cations Li, Na, K, Mg and Ca of the last row of Table 1. Applicants thus submit that correction of the obvious typographical error of Table 1 does not enter any new matter into the specification.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

Claims 1-3 and 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,956,073 ("Takagi"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takagi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, because Takagi is not prior art to the above-identified application.

Takagi is the U.S. national stage of PCT/JP02/12177, which was filed on November 21, 2002, and which published as WO/2003/044090 on May 30, 2003, in the Japanese language. In contrast, the above-identified application claims the priority of JP 2002-329533 of November 13, 2002. To perfect Applicants' claim to priority under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(4), an English-language translation of the JP 2002-329533 priority document and a translator's certification will be filed in the present case.

Because Takagi's earliest prior art date of May 30, 2003, is after Applicants' priority date of November 13, 2002, the Takagi reference is not prior art to the above-identified application. Thus, the rejections over Takagi should be withdrawn.

Irrespective of Applicants filing of a certified English translation of the priority document in this case, Applicants submit that Takagi fails to disclose or suggest each of the features of one or more embodiments of the invention of the present application. For example, the present application discloses a method of treating a commercial titanium dioxide particle "PC-3". The underlined Takagi reference describes a method of treating materials in a manner that is different than the treatment of the titanium dioxide particles described in the present specification. Takagi discloses at column 22, line 56 through column 23, line 9 that certain particles can be treated according to a process in which a particle is washed prior to undergoing surface-treatment (e.g., prior to surface coating).

The specification of the present application discloses an embodiment in which titanium dioxide particles are surface-coated then, subsequently, washed (see page 15, line 6-21 of the specification).

Washing titanium dioxide particles before surface coating, such as in Takagi, will form a surface-coated titanium dioxide particle whose surface may contain substantially greater amounts of metal cations in comparison to a titanium dioxide particle that is washed after surface-coating. Washing after surface coating helps ensure that metal cations present on the surface-coated exterior of the titanium dioxide particle will be removed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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